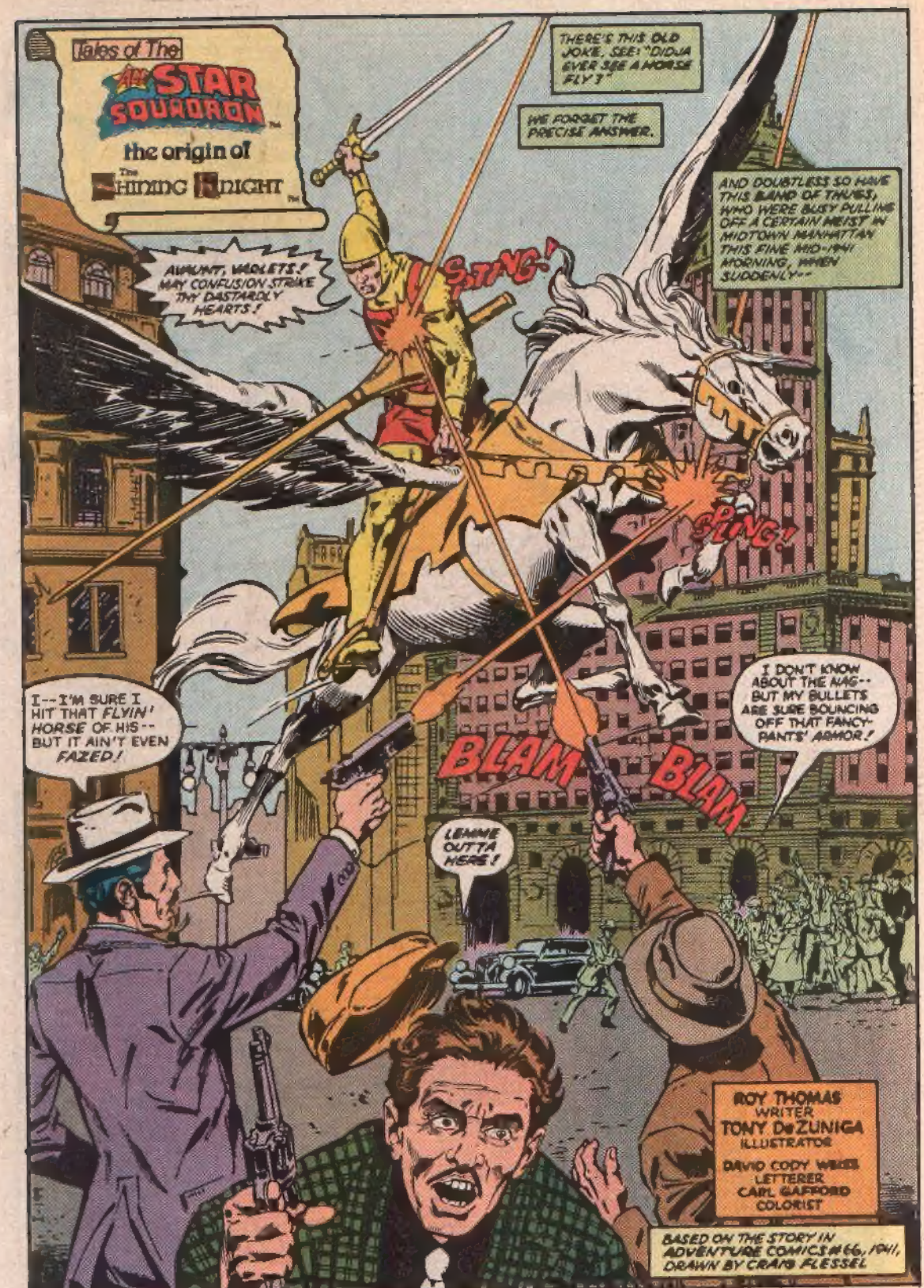
DC
ALL-STAR SQUADRON
62
75¢
CAN. $1.00
U.K. 40p
OCT. 86
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE ORIGIN OF THE SHINING KNIGHT!
BATMAN #401 is the stuff of LEGENDS
ROY THOMAS & TONY DE ZUNIGA



ALL-STAR SQUADRON 62 Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at New York, NY and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ALL-STAR SQUADRON, DC Comics Inc., Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. Annual subscription rate $9.00. Outside U.S.A. $11.00 in U.S. funds. Copyright © 1986 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives Inc., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017. (212) 391-1400. Printed in U.S.A.
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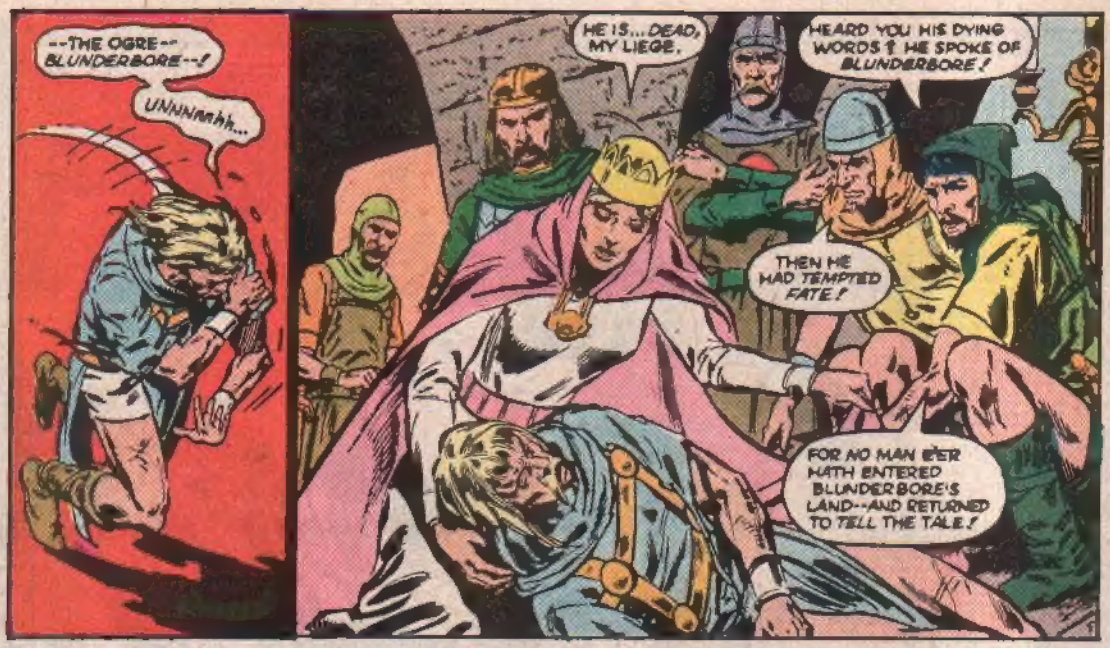
GAWDWAY! THAT SURE AIN'T THE KIND OF MOUNTED COP I WAS COUNTIN' ON RUNNING INTO!
P-PUT ME DOWN! I'LL CONFESS-- REFORM-- ANYTHING!
HO, YE MINIONS OF THE LAW! HAVE YE ROOM FOR THREE MORE KNAVES IN THE DUNGEONS OF THIS DAY AND AGE?
UH--WE SURE DO, MAC, THANKS.
NO STAND AT AN TIME
BUT HOW IN BLUE BLAZES DID YOU MAKE YOUR HORSE LOOK LIKE IT'S GOT BIRD BLOOD?
'TIS NEITHER MUMMERY NOR MIRAGE, MEN IN BLUE.
'TIS RATHER THE MAGIC PROWESS OF MY MERLIN-SPAWNED MOUNT, CALLED WINGED VICTORY!
IN DAYS TO COME, YE SHALL SEE MORE BOTH OF HIM, AND OF ONE WHO HAS BEEN DUBBED--THE SHINING KNIGHT!
NOW AWAY, MY STEED--AWAY!
LOOK! UP IN THE SKY! IT'S A BIRD!
NO--IT'S A PLANE!
HE'S GONE! THEY BOTH ARE! SO WHAT DO WE TELL THE SARGE, O'HARA?
DON'T MATTER WHAT WE TELL 'M--HE'S STILL GONNA WANT TO SMELL OUR BREATH!
WELL, EITHER ONE OF THOSE MAKES MORE SENSE THAN WHAT IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE--WHICH IS A MAN ON A WINGED HORSE!
THAT WAS NOW. THIS IS THEN...

...OR, TO BE MORE PRECISE: THE LEGEND-LADEN SIXTH CENTURY, WHEREIN THE ILLUSTRIOUS KING ARTHUR ENJOYS A FESTIVE MOMENT WITH HIS KNIGHTS WITHIN CASTLE CAMELOT, ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER USK...
A TOAST, MILORDS! A TOAST TO QUEEN GUINEVERE, MOST FAIR AND FAITHFUL OF LADIES!
HEAR YOU, MY QUEEN?
SIR LAUNCELOT IS MOST GENEROUS, MY LIEGE. IF ONLY MY COUSIN, SIR FALLON, WERE HERE...!
I--AM HERE-- DEAR COUSIN--
--YET--IN SOMEWHAT POOR CONDITION--TO DRINK THY HEALTH--!
SIR FALLON!
BUT--SORELY WOUNDED, FROM THE LOOK OF HIM!
WHO COULD HAVE BESTED SUCH A WORTHY KNIGHT?
SPEAK, O COUSIN! WHO HAS DONE THIS LOATHSOME DEED?
IT--IT WAS--



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YOU, SIR JUSTIN? BUT YOU ARE NEW TO OUR COURT...
ALL THE MORE REASON, SIRE, WHY I SHOULD PROVE MYSELF BY RIDDING THE ICE COUNTRY OF THAT MURDEROUS OGRE!
Hmmm... THERE BE MUCH IN WHAT YOU DO SAY, SIR KNIGHT.
DONE, THEN! SIR JUSTIN, MAY A STEADY EYE AND A STRONG ARM ADORN YOUR BRAVE HEART ON THIS CHIVALROUS MISSION!
I THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITH IN ME, MY LIEGE.
AND BY THIS BLADE WHICH HAS NEVER KNOWN DISHONOR, I PLEDGE ME TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF SIR FALLON.
GODSPEED, SIR JUSTIN! WE OF THE TABLE ROUND HAD SCARCELY TIME TO KNOW YOU.
I SHALL TROUNCE THE VILLAIN AND RETURN POSTHASTE, SIR BORS.
PLAGUE TAKE THIS ARMOR! 'TIS ALREADY HEAVY AND WARM, THOUGH THE SUN BE NOT WELL-RISEN.
WELL, I'LL DO THE DEED QUICKLY ENOW, AND THEN RETURN TO FAIR CAMELOT!
AND SO YOUNG SIR JUSTIN, NEWEST KNIGHT OF THE ROUND TABLE, SETS FORTH UPON A QUEST DESTINED TO CARRY HIM MANY LEAGUES--AND MANY CENTURIES.

THAT PHASE OF SIR JUSTIN'S LIFE BEGAN MANY DAYS LATER, IN A LITTLE-KNOWN PART OF THE FOREST PERILOUS...
HALT, SIR KNIGHT! THIS PASS IS CLOSED!
AND WHO IS IT SPEAKS THUS TO A KNIGHT OF THE TABLE ROUND?
OUR NAMES MATTER NOT, BUT WE'VE TWO SWORDS WITH WHICH TO BEAT THY ROUND TABLE--OR THY HEAD--SQUARE!
YOU ARE NOT EVEN WORTHY THE POINT OF MINE OWN SWORD, KNAVE!
THE FLAT OF IT TO THEE, THEN!
SWAK!
ARRGH--!
AND FOR THEE, VILLAIN--A PROD WITH MY LANCE, WHEN I CATCH THEE!
THEN YOU SHALL NOT, SIR KNIGHT!
AWAY, HORSE!
BOTH FLED--INTO THE WOODS! METHINKS THIS IS NO TERRAIN FOR CAVALRY!
THWAK!
OWWW! I AM STABBED!
ODD'S WOUNDS! WORDS--FROM A TREE?! WHAT MAGIC IS THIS?
THE BEST KIND, SIR KNIGHT! MY THANKS TO THEE!
YOU HAVE RESCUED MERLIN, THE MIGHTY MAGICIAN, FROM A SPELL CAST BY A VENGEFUL WITCH--AND YOU'LL NOT FIND ME UNGRATEFUL.
YOU OWE SIR JUSTIN NO--EH? DID YOU SAY--MERLIN?
MERLIN--WHO WAS ONCE KING ARTHUR'S OWN WIZARD?
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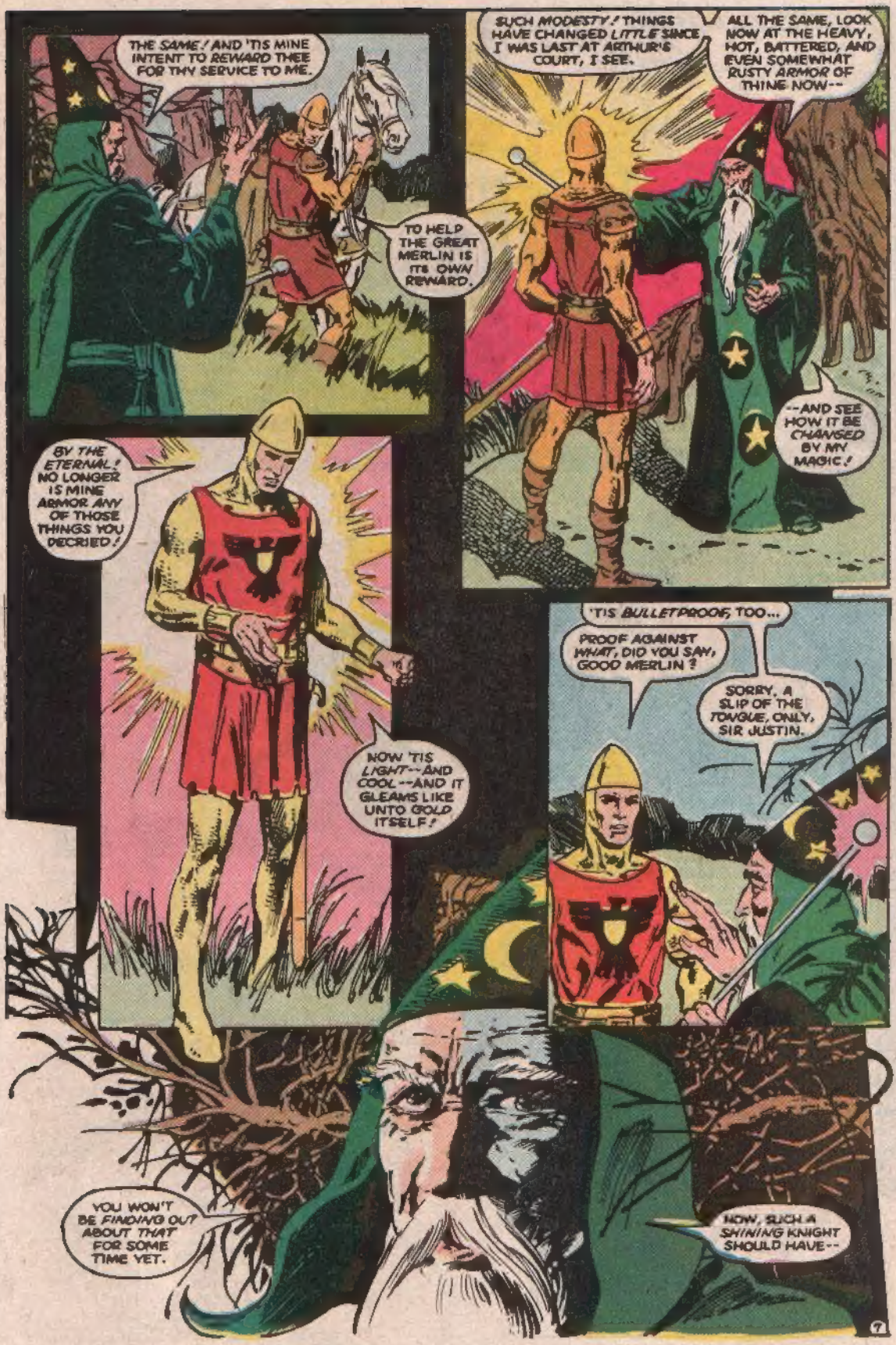
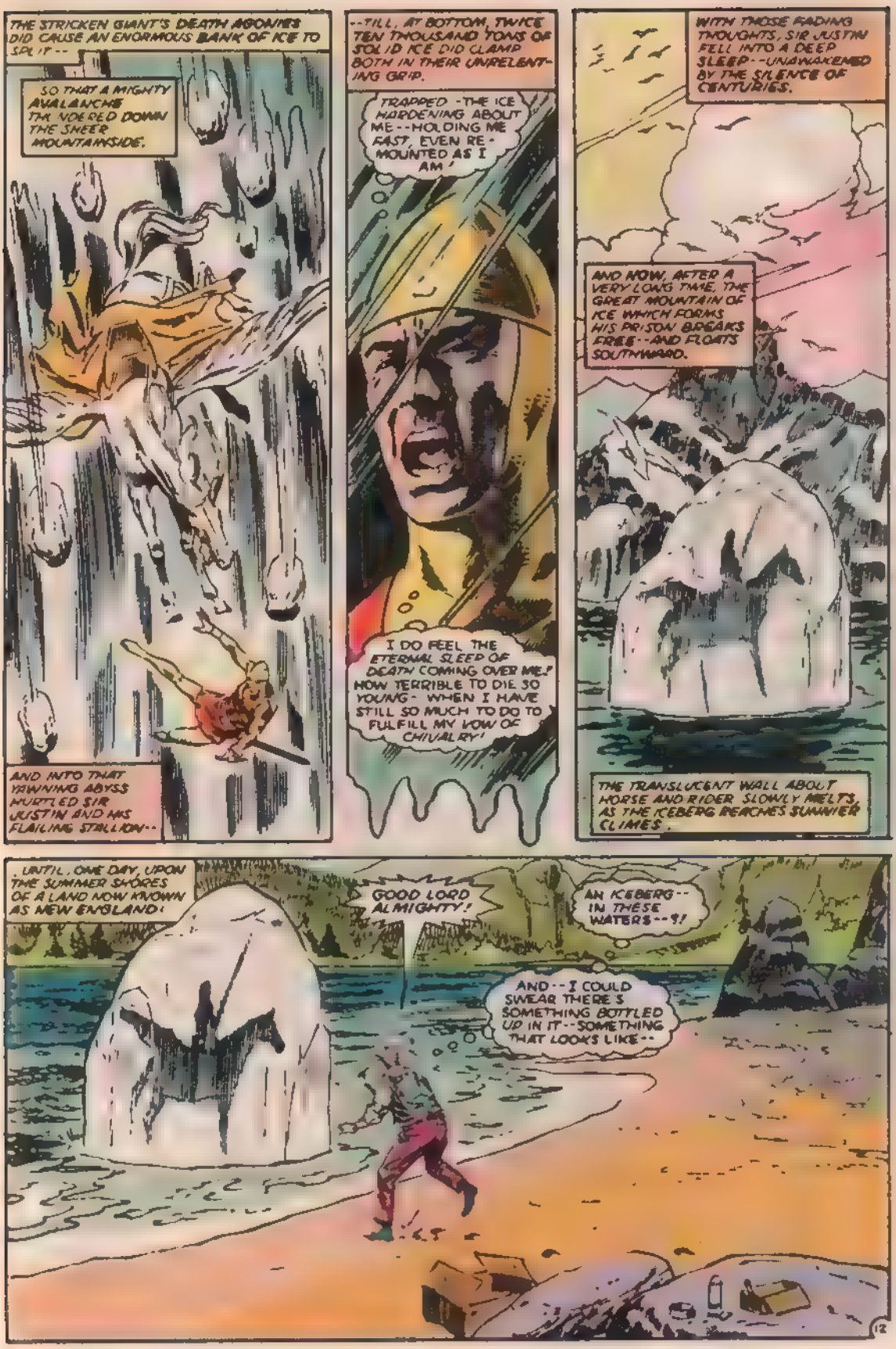

THE SAME! AND 'TIS MINE INTENT TO REWARD THEE FOR THY SERVICE TO ME.
TO HELP THE GREAT MERLIN IS ITS OWN REWARD.
SUCH MODESTY! THINGS HAVE CHANGED LITTLE SINCE I WAS LAST AT ARTHUR'S COURT, I SEE.
ALL THE SAME, LOOK NOW AT THE HEAVY, HOT, BATTERED, AND EVEN SOMEWHAT RUSTY ARMOR OF THINE NOW--
--AND SEE HOW IT BE CHANGED BY MY MAGIC!
BY THE ETERNAL! NO LONGER IS MINE ARMOR ANY OF THOSE THINGS YOU DECRIED!
NOW 'TIS LIGHT--AND COOL--AND IT GLEAMS LIKE UNTO GOLD ITSELF!
'TIS BULLETPROOF, TOO...
PROOF AGAINST WHAT, DID YOU SAY, GOOD MERLIN?
SORRY. A SLIP OF THE TONGUE, ONLY, SIR JUSTIN.
YOU WON'T BE FINDING OUT ABOUT THAT FOR SOME TIME YET.
NOW, SUCH A SHINING KNIGHT SHOULD HAVE--

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

CAN HE TRULY FLY NOW, MAGE-- LIKE UNTO A BIRD ?
LIKE UNTO A LEAR JET-- BUT-- ER, UH--
--I MUST REMEMBER TO KEEP PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE STRAIGHT, LEST I CONFUSE THEE FURTHER!
THEN I'LL BE OFF TO DEAL WITH THE GIANT I SEEK. I'LL SEE THEE LATER, WIZARD.
MUCH LATER, SIR KNIGHT.
THUS DID SIR JUSTIN CONTINUE ON HIS QUEST WITH RENEWED VIGOR... THOUGH NOT WITHOUT SOME TREPIDATION...
THIS FLYING-- METHINKS I LIKE IT LESS THAN I MIGHT HAVE IMAGINED.
'TIS ALMOST AS THOUGH MERLIN GAVE IT ME FOR SOME FUTURE PURPOSE, RATHER THAN AS MERE REWARD.
YET, IN SOOTH, THERE IS TRULY MUCH TO BE SAID FOR OUTRACING EAGLES...
...AND IN REACHING THE VAST ICE FIELDS OF THE FROZEN NORTHLAND SO SWIFTLY!
DOWN, WINGED VICTORY!!
BUT NOW, MY SWORD THIRSTS FOR BATTLE.
HOW LONG, I WONDER, WILL IT TAKE ME TO FIND THIS MURDEROUS GIANT?
IF IT BE BLUNDERBORE YOU SEEK, MAN IN METAL--

--YOU NEED LOOK NO FURTHER!
ZOUNDS! TRULY HE IS MONSTROUS HUGE!
IF HIS BLOW HAD STRUCK ME, I DOUBT EVEN MY MAGE-BLESSED ARMOR HAD SAVED ME!
BUT YOU'LL NOT BE GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE TO SMITE ME FROM BEHIND, VARLET!
I HAVE WAITED FOR THAT CRAVEN ARTHUR TO SEND ANOTHER OF HIS PRECIOUS KNIGHTS NORTHWARD!
YOU WILL NOT LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO STAGGER BACK TO THE TABLE ROUND OF WHICH MY PREVIOUS CONQUEST DID TELL ME--
--FOR I SHALL HAVE YOUR SKULL FOR MY BELT-BUCKLE!
NEVER, VILE OGRE! NOT WHILE MINE INVINCIBLE BLADE IS WIELDED BY THESE HANDS!
MAGIC, EH! THEN LET THOSE HANDS GRASP SUCH A SWORD NO LONGER!
SW
UHHHOW--!

A CURSE UPON ME FOR A CARELESS FOOL!
IF IT'S CURSES YOU WANT, WARRIOR—
--I'LL MAKE A MOUNTAIN-FULL OF THEM--OVER YOUR GRAVE!
WHUMP
YOU ARE A FOOL FAR GREATER EVEN THAN I WAS, CHANT--
--TO HAVE HURLED ME SO NEAR MY SWORD!
AND NOW—ANOTHER VICTORY FOR MY LIEGE-LORD ARTHUR!
Y-YOU HAVE WOUNDED ME-- UNTO DEATH--
--BUT BLUNDERBORE-- DIES NOT ALONE!
KRAK
WHAM
BY MY HALIDOM!


THE STRICKEN GIANT'S DEATH AGONIES DID CAUSE AN ENORMOUS BANK OF ICE TO SPLIT--
SO THAT A MIGHTY AVALANCHE THUNDERED DOWN THE SHEER MOUNTAINSIDE.
AND INTO THAT YAWNING ABYSS HURTLED SIR JUSTIN AND HIS FLAILING STALLION--
--TILL, AT BOTTOM, TWICE TEN THOUSAND TONS OF SOLID ICE DID CLAMP BOTH IN THEIR UNRELENTING GRIP.
TRAPPED - THE ICE HARDENING ABOUT ME--HOLDING ME FAST, EVEN RE-MOUNTED AS I AM!
I DO FEEL THE ETERNAL SLEEP OF DEATH COMING OVER ME! HOW TERRIBLE TO DIE SO YOUNG - WHEN I HAVE STILL SO MUCH TO DO TO FULFILL MY VOW OF CHIVALRY!
WITH THOSE FADING THOUGHTS, SIR JUSTIN FELL INTO A DEEP SLEEP--UNAWAKENED BY THE SILENCE OF CENTURIES.
AND NOW, AFTER A VERY LONG TIME, THE GREAT MOUNTAIN OF ICE WHICH FORMS HIS PRISON BREAKS FREE--AND FLOATS SOUTHWARD.
THE TRANSLUCENT WALL ABOUT HORSE AND RIDER SLOWLY MELTS, AS THE ICEBERG REACHES SUMMIER CLIMES.
. UNTIL, ONE DAY, UPON THE SUMMER SHORES OF A LAND NOW KNOWN AS NEW ENGLAND:
GOOD LORD ALMIGHTY!
AN ICEBERG--IN THESE WATERS--?!
AND--I COULD SWEAR THERE'S SOMETHING BOTTLED UP IN IT--SOMETHING THAT LOOKS LIKE--
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--A MAN--ON A HORSE!
DEPENDING ON HOW LONG THEY'VE BEEN IN THERE--THIS COULD BE THE FIND OF THE CENTURY!
GOOD THING I BROUGHT SOME DYNAMITE ALONG WITH ME
NOW IF ONLY I CAN GET THEM OUT--WITHOUT MARRING THE BODIES--!
MINUTES LATER AS THE SMOKELINE RE-ECHOES WITH THE DEAFENING ROAR OF THE DETONATION--
OH LORD! I DID USE TOO MUCH DYNAMITE! THERE'LL BE NOTHING LEFT OF--
BA-
TOOM
METHOUGHT I DID HEAR A MIGHTY THUNDERCLAP, AND NOW--
BY CHRIST AND THE CROSS! UPON WHAT STRANGE SHORE HAVE WE COME TO REST, WINGED VICTORY?
IT--CAN'T BE! A KNIGHT ON HORSEBACK--ALIVE!? AND THAT HORSE--
YOU! STRANGELY-GARBED FELLOW--BE YOU PERCHANCE AN ALLY OF THE OGRE BLUNDERBORE?
TO YOUR CLUB, VARLET, AND WE'LL HAVE AT IT!
AHA!--I'M DR MORESBY! I FREED YOU FROM THE ICE--!
Hmmm MAYHAP YOU TELL THE TRUTH, ELSE HOW AM I FREE?
ARE YOU A WIZARD, SENT BY MERLIN OR KING ARTHUR TO END MINE IMPRISONMENT?
MERLIN? ARTHUR?
TH-THOSE MEN LIVED--IF THEY LIVED AT ALL--OVER A MILLENNIUM AGO, MY FRIEND!
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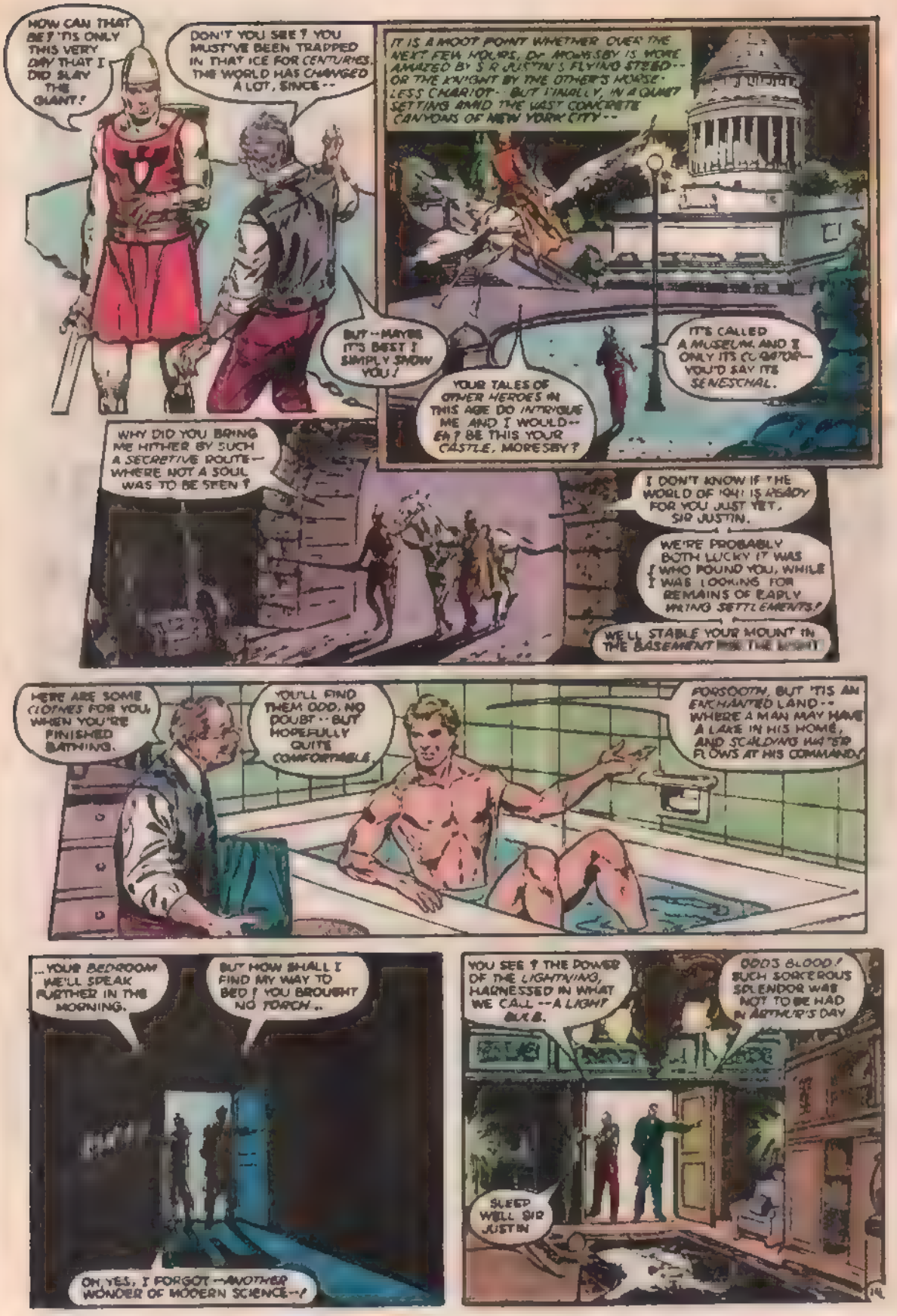
HOW CAN THAT BE? 'TIS ONLY THIS VERY DAY THAT I DID SLAY THE GIANT!
DON'T YOU SEE? YOU MUST'VE BEEN TRAPPED IN THAT ICE FOR CENTURIES. THE WORLD HAS CHANGED A LOT, SINCE--
IT IS A MOOT POINT WHETHER OVER THE NEXT FEW HOURS, Dr MORESBY IS MORE AMAZED BY SIR JUSTIN'S FLYING STEED-- OR THE KNIGHT BY THE OTHER'S HORSELESS CHARIOT-- BUT FINALLY, IN A QUIET SETTING AMID THE VAST CONCRETE CANYONS OF NEW YORK CITY--
BUT--MAYBE IT'S BEST I SIMPLY SHOW YOU!
YOUR TALES OF OTHER HEROES IN THIS AGE DO INTRIGUE ME AND I WOULD-- EH? BE THIS YOUR CASTLE, MORESBY?
IT'S CALLED A MUSEUM, AND IF ONLY ITS CURATOR-- YOU'D SAY ITS SENESCHAL.
WHY DID YOU BRING ME HITHER BY SUCH A SECRETIVE ROUTE-- WHERE NOT A SOUL WAS TO BE SEEN?
I DON'T KNOW IF THE WORLD OF 1941 IS READY FOR YOU JUST YET, SIR JUSTIN.
WE'RE PROBABLY BOTH LUCKY IT WAS I WHO FOUND YOU, WHILE I WAS LOOKING FOR REMAINS OF EARLY VIKING SETTLEMENTS!
WE'LL STABLE YOUR MOUNT IN THE BASEMENT
HERE ARE SOME CLOTHES FOR YOU, WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED BATHING.
YOU'LL FIND THEM ODD, NO DOUBT-- BUT HOPEFULLY QUITE COMFORTABLE.
FORSOOTH, BUT 'TIS AN ENCHANTED LAND-- WHERE A MAN MAY HAVE A LAKE IN HIS HOME, AND SCALDING WATER FLOWS AT HIS COMMAND!
...YOUR BEDROOM WE'LL SPEAK FURTHER IN THE MORNING.
BUT HOW SHALL I FIND MY WAY TO BED? YOU BROUGHT NO TORCH..
OH, YES, I FORGOT--ANOTHER WONDER OF MODERN SCIENCE--!
YOU SEE? THE POWER OF THE LIGHTNING, HARNESSED IN WHAT WE CALL--A LIGHT BULB.
ODDS BLOOD! SUCH SORCEROUS SPLENDOR WAS NOT TO BE HAD IN ARTHUR'S DAY
SLEEP WELL SIR JUSTIN

COMES THE DAWN...
WE CALL THIS BREAKFAST, MY FRIEND
BREAKFAST? AH, YES-- TO BREAK THE NIGHT'S FAST!
'TWILL DO READILY! I COULD DEVOUR AN OX AFTER MY ALL-LONG SLEEP!
Nnnnf.' HE EATS LIKE HE'S GOING OFF TO THE WAR ANY MINUTE, Dr. MORESBY.
DON'T HE SEE THERE'S A KNIFE AND FORK ON THE TABLE?
IS THE FOOD ALIVE-- AND IN NEED OF STABBING?
...THE TABLE MANNERS IN JUSTIN'S COUNTRY ARE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM OURS, Mrs. JOHNSON.
AND NOW, SIR JUSTIN, IT'S TIME I SHOWED YOU AROUND OUR-- WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL HOUSE OF ANTIQUITIES.
I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE NOTION OF HOLY RELICS.
WELL, OUR AGE HAS GROWN A BIT FUZZY ON THE CONCEPT OF "HOLY"-- BUT THEY'RE RELICS, ALL RIGHT!
THESE MEANS OF FLIGHT AND KILL NO, FOR INSTANCE, WERE USED TO DEADLY EFFECT IN THE GREAT WAR
THE WAR OF WHICH YOUR HOUSE-KEEPER DID SPEAK?
NO, THAT'S A NEW, EVEN MORE HORRIBLE WAR, I FEAR
AMERICA ISN'T IN IT YET, BUT-- AH! HERE ARE SOME EARLY TELEPHONES, WITH WHICH WE TALK WITH PEOPLE OVER GREAT DISTANCES.
IF ONLY IT DID CONVERSE OVER THE CENTURIES, AS WELL!
UH... YES...
NOW THIS SHOULD INTEREST YOU! IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THIS JEWEL CAME FROM THE CROWN OF YOUR OWN KING ARTHUR!
FAITH! MY LIEGE LORD'S MOST FAVORED DIAMOND!

THEN IT'S GENUINE?
AYE! IT SEEMS BUT YESTERDAY THAT I DID VIEW IT!
HOW STRANGE TO THINK THIS GEM AND I HAVE SURVIVED--WHILE ALL THE KNIGHTS AND THEIR LADIES I KNEW ARE NOW BUT DUST!
ARTHUR HIMSELF--GAWAINE--LAUNCELOT--
--AND GUINEVERE HERSELF, WHO DID GIFT HER BELOVED KING AND HUSBAND WITH THIS SELFSAME JEWEL.
TO THINK THAT E'EN SHE, MOST VIRTUOUS OF QUEENS, IS NOW BUT THE STUFF OF MUSTY LEGEND...
VIRTUOUS, DID YOU SAY?
AFTER SHE BETRAYED KING ARTHUR WITH SIR LAUNCELOT?
WHAT SAY YOU?! WOULD YOU DEFAME THE NOBLEST KNIGHT, THE MOST FAITHFUL LADY, IN ONE AND THE SAME BREATH?
GRAB YOUR SWORD, KNAVE--AND WE SHALL SEE WHOSE HONOR SHALL BE UPHELD THIS DAY!
SIR JUSTIN--WAIT--PLEASE--!
I ASSURE YOU--THAT'S THE WAY THE STORY'S BEEN HANDED DOWN--BUT PERHAPS IT WAS ONLY MORDRED'S DOING!
MORDRED--AYE! THAT MOST VILE OF VILLAINS!
SO HE HAS DECEIVED EVEN THE AGES WITH HIS BASE LIES!? HE--EH?
HI, Dr. MORESBY. SEEN DAD TODAY? I WANTED TO GET SOME SHOPPING DOUGH OUT OF HIM.
SAY--WHO'S THE GREAT BIG HANDSOME BRUTE?
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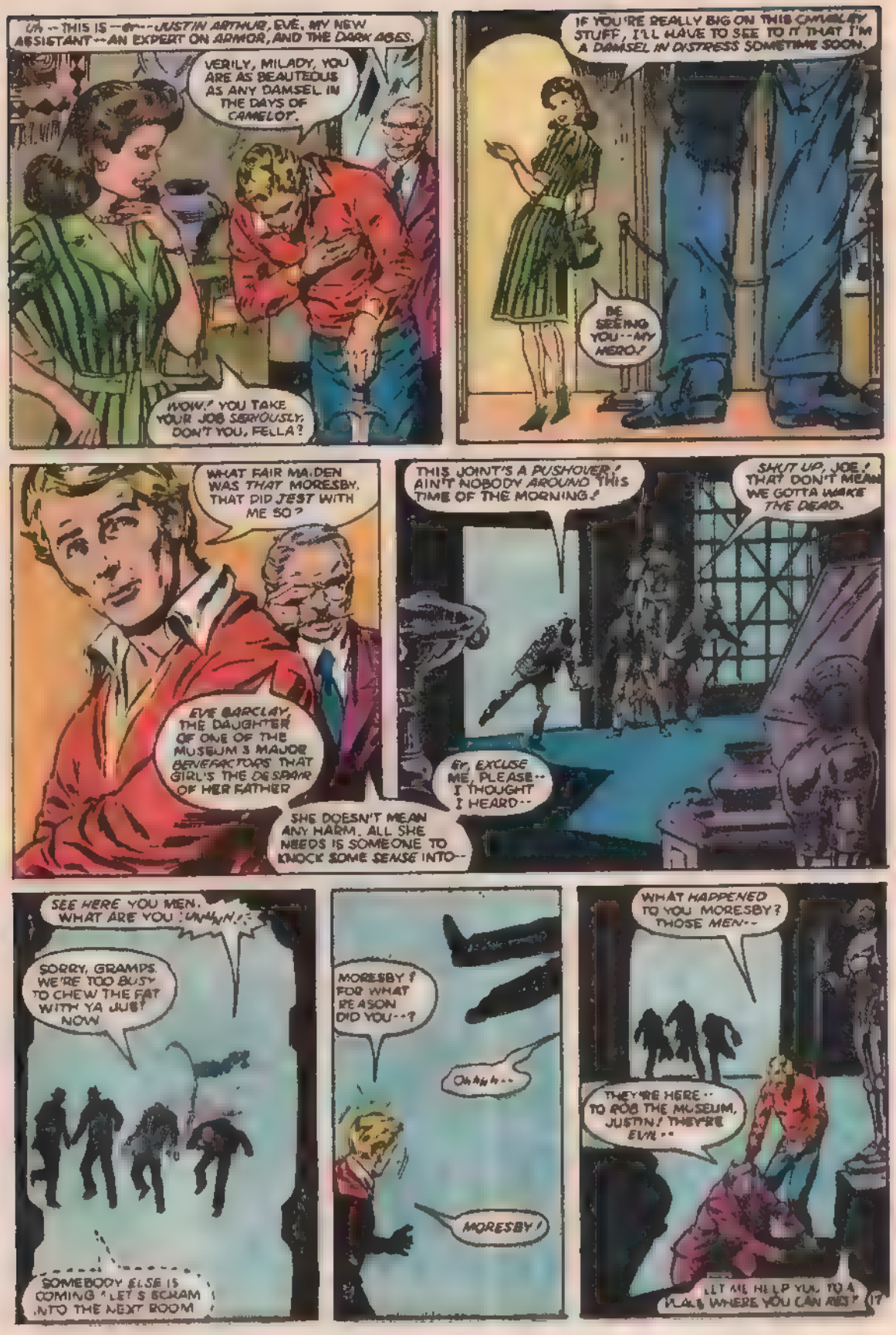
UH -- THIS IS -- UH -- JUSTIN ARTHUR, EVE, MY NEW ASSISTANT -- AN EXPERT ON ARMOR, AND THE DARK AGES.
VERILY, MILADY, YOU ARE AS BEAUTEOUS AS ANY DAMSEL IN THE DAYS OF CAMELOT.
WOW! YOU TAKE YOUR JOB SERIOUSLY, DON'T YOU, FELLA?
IF YOU'RE REALLY BIG ON THIS CAMELOT STUFF, I'LL HAVE TO SEE TO IT THAT I'M A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS SOMETIME SOON.
BE SEEING YOU -- MY HERO!
WHAT FAIR MAIDEN WAS THAT MORESBY, THAT DID JEST WITH ME SO?
EVE BARCLAY, THE DAUGHTER OF ONE OF THE MUSEUM'S MAJOR BENEFACTORS. THAT GIRL'S THE DESPAIR OF HER FATHER
SHE DOESN'T MEAN ANY HARM. ALL SHE NEEDS IS SOMEONE TO KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO--
THIS JOINT'S A PUSHOVER! AIN'T NOBODY AROUND THIS TIME OF THE MORNING!
SHUT UP, JOE! THAT DON'T MEAN WE GOTTA WAKE THE DEAD.
ER, EXCUSE ME, PLEASE -- I THOUGHT I HEARD --
SEE HERE YOU MEN. WHAT ARE YOU UMMM!?
SORRY, GRAMPS. WE'RE TOO BUSY TO CHEW THE FAT WITH YA JUST NOW
SOMEBODY ELSE IS COMING! LET'S SCRAM INTO THE NEXT ROOM
MORESBY! FOR WHAT REASON DID YOU --?
OHHHH --
MORESBY!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU MORESBY? THOSE MEN --
THEY'RE HERE -- TO ROB THE MUSEUM, JUSTIN! THEY'RE EVIL --
LET ME HELP YOU TO A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN REST!
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METHINKS THE HOUR FOR BATTLE IS COME ONCE MORE--
--IN ATTIRE BEFITTING THE SHINING KNIGHT!
BOY/OBOY! LOOKIT THESE JEWELS!
YEAH! WITH THAT OLD GEEZER OUTTA THE WAY, THIS IS AS EASY AS ROBBIN' A KID'S PIGGY-BANK!
A "KING ARTHUR DIAMOND," HUH? OUR FENCE SURE OUGHTTA GIVE US A MINT FOR THIS--OOOPS!
HEY, DUMBO! DON'T LET THAT SPARKLER GET AWAY!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! I GOT--HUH?
Y'KNOW, THE LIGHT AIN'T TOO GOOD IN HERE--BUT I COULD SWEAR THIS ARMORED DUMMY IS STARIN' AT ME!
THOU SCURVY KNAVE!
WHA--!
I SHALL BASTE THEE--GOOD AND TRUE!
UGOH!
18

SOME GUY IN A TIN SUIT SLUGGED LOUIE! WHAT GIVES?
AND WHAT WEIRD-LING WEAPONS ARE THESE THAT DEAFEN MINE EARS?
BLAM
BLAMM
WHAT'S THE DIFF? JUST PLUG 'IM--BEFORE HE STICKS THAT SWORD IN YOUR GUT!
WHATE'ER THEY BE— THEIR TINY STING CAN SCARCE BE FELT THROUGH MINE ENCHANTED ARMOR!
KLANG
OUCH! LET'S GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!
NOW YOU GUYS'RE TALKIN' MY LINGO.
THAT GUY'S SUIT MUST BE BULLETPROOF!
"BULLETPROOF"? I KNOW THAT WORD!
OF COURSE! MERLIN DID USE IT, WHEN HE GAVE ME MY GLEAMING ARMOR! HIS SORCERY MUST HAVE TOLD HIM I WOULD TRAVEL TO THIS FUTURE AGE.
COME, WINGED VICTORY...
...WE DO OWE A DEBT TO THESE UNCHIVALROUS CHURLS!
YEEOWW! NOW WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT GUY?! HE'S RIDIN' A FLYING HORSE!
WHAT'D WE GET OURSELVES INTO, ANYHOW?
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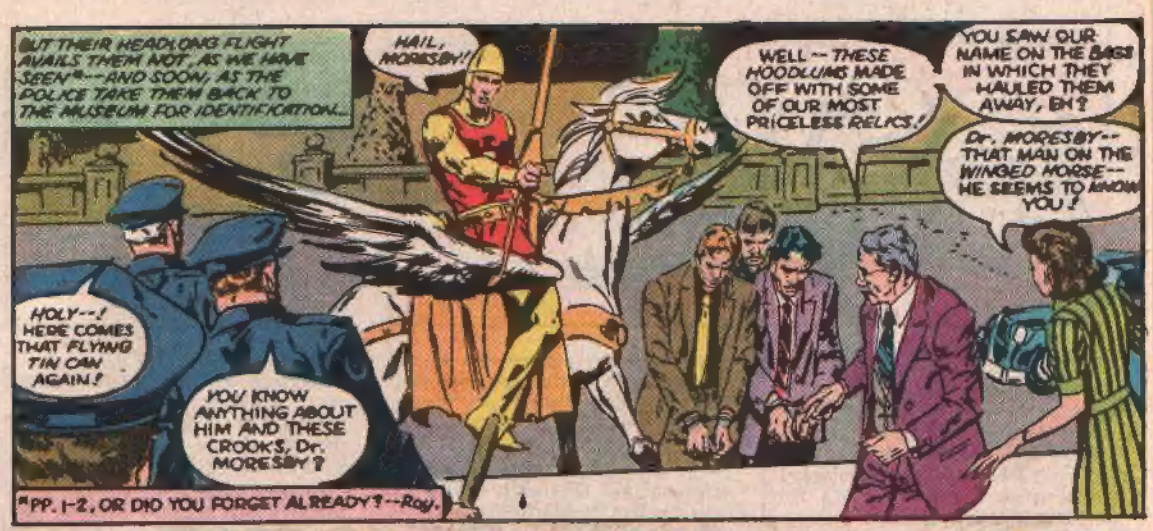
HOLY SMOKE! WE'RE NOT ONLY RUSHIN' HIM--HE'S CHARGIN' STRAIGHT AT US!
HOLD YE STEADY, WINGED VICTORY!
A MOMENT MORE, AND WE SHALL KNOW IF GOOD MERLIN'S SPELL WAS PROOF FOR ALL MY WEAPONS--E'EN MY LANCE.
SPLWAG!
'TWOULD SEEM IT WAS!
WHAT A PUBLICITY STUNT!
SURE! THAT'S WHAT IT'S GOT TO BE, RIGHT? FOR SOME MOVIE?
DIDN'T YOU SEE? THAT NAG WAS FLYIN' JUST A FEW SECONDS AGO!
M-MOVE IT, YOU MUGS! HE AIN'T DONE WITH US YET!
GET DOWN UPON YOUR KNEES, VARLETS--AND GIVE THANKS THAT THE GOOD MAN MORESBY WAS NOT UNDULY HURT BY YOUR ASSAULT--
--ELSE ALL THE CAVERNS FROM ALBION TO HYPERBOREA WOULD NOT BE VAST ENOW TO HIDE YE FROM MY WRATH!
THAT'S WHEN THE TRIO OF FELONS FLEE THROUGH MANHATTAN'S STREETS--


BUT THEIR HEADLONG FLIGHT AVAILS THEM NOT, AS WE HAVE SEEN*--AND SOON, AS THE POLICE TAKE THEM BACK TO THE MUSEUM FOR IDENTIFICATION...
HAIL, MORESBY!
WELL--THESE HOODLUMS MADE OFF WITH SOME OF OUR MOST PRICELESS RELICS!
YOU SAW OUR NAME ON THE BASE IN WHICH THEY HAULED THEM AWAY, EH?
Dr. MORESBY--THAT MAN ON THE WINGED HORSE--HE SEEMS TO KNOW YOU!
HOLY--! HERE COMES THAT FLYING TIN CAN AGAIN!
YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM AND THESE CROOKS, Dr. MORESBY?
*PP. 1-2, OR DID YOU FORGET ALREADY?--Roy.

Er--THE SHINING KNIGHT AND I MET BRIEFLY, EVE, JUST BEFORE HE GAVE CHASE TO THOSE MEN.
FROM THE TABLE ROUND OF ARTHUR, KING OF BRITONS--TO RID THIS WORLD OF EVIL, AND OF THOSE WHO WORSHIP IT.
WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

THEN I FIGURE YOU'RE GOING TO BE AROUND FOR A LONG TIME, DREAMBOAT.
AND THIS IS ONE GAL THAT'S GLAD OF IT--WHETHER OR NOT I BELIEVE THAT KING ARTHUR LINE!

GOOD BYE, SIR KNIGHT! I HOPE WE MEET AGAIN ONE DAY SOON.
I TROW WE SHALL, MORESBY!

PRAISE BE TO MERLIN--FOR 'TIS SURELY HIS MAGIC WHICH PREVENTS THE GIRL EVE FROM SEEING THAT THE SHINING KNIGHT IS ALSO JUSTIN ARTHUR!
AND BY THE BLADE HE ENCHANTED, I PLEDGE TO RID MY NEW HOMELAND--MY NEW AGE--OF ALL VILENESS AND DISHONOR.
TO THAT END, I SHALL FIGHT ALONE--OR IN CONCERT WITH OTHER CHAMPIONS, AS I DID IN DAYS OF YORE!
AND SO HE SHALL--BY JOINING FORCES FIRST WITH THE FABLED SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY, THEN WITH THE ILLUSTRIOUS ALL-STAR SQUADRON...!
NEXT: THE AMAZING ORIGIN OF ROBOTMAN!